

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

SNM-02 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 EB-07

SS-15 /073 W

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R 080140Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9071

DEA HQS WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 15438

DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

GUATEMALA FOR VANCE AND KIERE; DEA HQS FOR PTER BENSINGER,
ENO VALENTINE AND ENOL GALANOS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR MX

SUBJECT: FIRST MEETING ON NARCOTICS WITH NEW ATTORNEY GENERAL

1. SUMMARY: AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY PRINCIPAL MISSION
NARCOTIC STAFFERS, CALLED ON ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) TO DISCUSS
USG-GOM COOPERATION ON NARCOTICS CONTROL. MEETING REVIEWED
EXTENT OF COOPERATION TO DATE AND LAID FOUNDATION FOR MORE
DETAILED DISCUSSIONS AFTER AG SELECTS HIS STAFF. END SUMMARY.

2. ON DEC. 7 AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY SPECIAL ASSISTANT
MCLAUGHLIN, ACTING DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR SAUCEDO, AND NARCOTICS
ASSISTANCE UNTI (NAU) OFFICER BERNAL CALLED ON MEXICAN AG
OSCAR FLORES-SANCHEZ, AT LATTER'S INVITATION, TO BRIEF HIM ON
USG-GOM NARCOTICS COOPERATION. PRESENT WITH AG WAS DEPUTY AG
MANUEL ROSALES-MIRANDA (CAREER EMPLOYEE WITH 45 YEARS EXPERI-
ENCE IN AG'S OFFICE).

3. FLORES REFERRED TO HIS EXPERIENCE AS MEXICAN CO-DIRECTOR
HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE COMMISSION, WHERE HE ACCUMULATED CONSIDER-
ABLE EXPERIENCE IN WORKING WITH AMERICANS AND MEXICAN MILITARY
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ON OPERATIONAL MATTERS. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT HIS EXPERI-

ENCE WOULD ASSIST HIS WORK IN NARCOTICS FIELD, NOTING THAT HOOF AND MOUTH PROGRAM WAS EXCEEDINGLY UNPOPULAR BECAUSE IT INVOLVED KILLING INFECTED ANIMALS. HE ALSO EXPRESSED GREAT AWARENESS OF AMERICAN IDEAS AND METHODS FROM MANY YEARS HE SPENT ON US-MEXICAN BORDER.

4. FLORES THEN MOVED IMMEDIATELY TO SPECIFIC SUBJECTS: (A) HE INTENDS TO NAME AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER (POSITION FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY ALEJANDRO GERTZ-MANERO) WHO WILL HANDLE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS ONLY; (B) HE PLANS TO SELECT AN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR TO WORK FULL TIME ON CAMPAIGN WITH NO OTHER DUTIES; (C) HE HAS ALREADY TALKED TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND OBTAINED AGREEMENT-IN-PRINCIPLE TO HAVE MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO HIS COMMAND FOR CAMPAIGN SECURITY AND SUPPORT (HE NOTED THAT SPLIT RESPONSIBILITY BETWEEN AG'S REP IN THE FIELD AND MILITARY ZONE COMMANDERS IS UNWORKABLE AND THAT "ONE BAD HEAD IS BETTER THAN TWO GOOD HEADS"; (D) HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT, UNDER NEWLY-NEGOTIATED EXCHANGE OF SANCTIONS TREATY, AMERICAN PRISONERS WOULD BE SET FREE SOON AFTER THEIR RETURN TO THE U.S.; (E) HE INFORMED EMBASSY REPS THAT HE DID NOT SEE NAMES OF SOME MAJOR TRAFFICKERS KNOWN TO HIM AMONG NAMES THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY EMBASSY (HE THEREUPON LOANED HAND-WRITTEN LIST OF NAMES TO DEA OFFICER).

5. AMBASSADOR THEN INTRODUCED DEA OFFICER AS "EMBASSY SPECIALIST IN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT", NAU OFFICER AS "EMBASSY SPECIALIST IN FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE", AND SPECIAL ASSISTANT AS "MY PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO HELP ME COORDINATE MANY FACETS OF OUR PROGRAM". AMBASSADOR UNDERScoreD HIS PERSONAL INTEREST AND FREQUENT INVOLVEMENT IN NARCOTICS PROGRAM, ADDING THAT "THIS IS CERTAINLY ONE OF EMBASSY'S MOST IMPORTANT TASKS".

6. AT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION, DEA OFFICER THEN DESCRIBED EMBASSY'S PROGRAM TO ASSIST GOM ENFORCEMENT EFFORT, BRIEFLY DESCRIBING ACTIVITIES IN (A) ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS; (B) NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE; (C) ASSISTANCE TO ERADICATION PROGRAM IN FORM OF AIRCRAFT AND PERSONNEL; (D) FUGITIVES PROGRAM; AND (E) JANUS PROSECUTIONS. DEA OFFICER CHARACTERIZED ALL ACTIVITIES AS BILATERAL IN NATURE, NOTED THAT WE HAVE RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM AG'S OFFICE, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT COOPERATION

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WOULD INCREASE EVEN FURTHER.

7. NAU OFFICER OUTLINED AREAS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (AVIATION, MAINTENANCE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND REMOTE SENSING), DESCRIBED USG FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO DATE, AND NOTED THAT MISSION CONSIDERED FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AS ONLY ONE PART OF TOTAL MISSION EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS. (AT THIS POINT, AG STATED THAT HE HAD READ EVERY USG-GOM NARCOTICS AGREEMENT

AND REQUESTED FROM EMBASSY LIST OF WHICH AGREEMENTS ARE STILL IN FORCE, TOGETHER WITH SUMMARY OF OBLIGATIONS THEY IMPOSE ON BOTH USG AND GOM. (LIST WILL BE SUBMITTED ASAP.)

8. DEA OFFICER THEN COMMENTED THAT MANY COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENTS DERIVED NOT FROM FORMAL AGREEMENTS BUT FROM INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS (SUCH AS COOPERATION ALONG BORDER) AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE. AG REPLIED THAT HE WAS FAMILIAR WITH "TRADITIONAL" ARRANGEMENTS ALONG BORDER AND IMPLIED THAT THEY WOULD CONTINUE.

9. SPECIAL ASSISTANT DESCRIBED HIS ROLE AS THAT OF COORDINATING VARIOUS ACTIVITIES OF HIS COLLEAGUES AND ASSURING THAT THE ENTIRE NARCOTICS EFFORT WAS COORDINATED WITH OTHER EMBASSY ACTIVITIES SUCH AS PRISONER ISSUE. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD ALSO SERVE AS DIRECT CONDUIT TO AMBASSADOR FOR ANY TYPE OF PROBLEM ON WHICH AG MIGHT WISH ASSISTANCE.

10. AFTER HEARING EMBASSY REPS, AG SAID THAT, WHILE HE BELIEVED IN DELEGATING AUTHORITY, HE READ EVERY PIECE OF PAPER FLOWING IN AND OUT OF HIS ORGANIZATION AND URGED EMBASSY NOT TO BELIEVE IT WAS BURDENING HIM BY KEEPING HIM FULLY INFORMED. HE REFERRED TO "MEN WHO DREAM THEY GOVERN AND MEN WHO GOVERN WHILE THEY DREAM". HE WAS EMPHATIC ON POINT HE INTENDS TO GOVERN.

11. LAST ITEM COVERED WAS PLANNED VISIT OF SHELDON VANCE (S/NM) AND PETER BENSINGER (DEA) ON MONDAY DEC. 13. AMBASSADOR ASKED IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO MEET INFORMALLY WITH AG TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SUGGESTED LUNCHEON AT RESIDENCE. AG IMMEDIATELY ACCEPTED INVITATION, SAYING HE WOULD BRING ROSALES-MIRANDA AND TWO OTHER UNNAMED ASSOCIATES.

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12. IN PARTING, DEA REP SAID HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO CONVEY ADMINISTRATOR'S PERSONAL CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO AG. AG EXPRESSED APPRECIATION.

13. COMMENT: FLORES IMPRESSED GROUP AS SELF-CONFIDENT AND ABLE, AS WELL AS EXTREMELY ACTIVE DESPITE HIS AGE (69). HE OBVIOUSLY CONSIDERS NARCOTICS COOPERATION IMPORTANT, HAVING INITIATED MEETING DURING HIS FIRST WEEK IN OFFICE AND HAVING ALREADY SPENT CONSIDERABLE TIME READING AGREEMENTS AND ENFORCEMENT RECORDS AND DISCUSSING PROBLEM INTERNALLY AND WITH OTHER GOM MINISTRIES.JOVA

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